

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A polymeric foam tube for pipe insulations, ~~wherein the tube has~~
comprising:
 - an external surface; and
 - an internal surface ~~the latter~~ being provided with an adhesively bonded additional layer,
said additional layer being characterized in that the additional layer is a layer of fibers which:
 - comprise[[s]] a material having a melt temperature that is higher than that of the polymeric foam,
 - are adhesively bonded to the internal surface such as to stand up from the internal surface,
 - are substantially uniformly distributed over the internal surface providing a surface coverage of 2 to 20 percent, and
 - have a linear density of [[0,5]] 0.5 to 25 dtex and a length of [[0,2]] 0.2 to 5 mm.
2. (Currently Amended) A polymeric foam tube according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the fibers extend substantially in a radial direction from the internal surface.
3. (Currently amended) A polymeric foam tube according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the fibers are polymeric fibers.

4. (Withdrawn) A method for continuously producing a polymeric foam tube for pipe insulations, wherein

- the polymeric foam tube is extruded, providing an external and an internal surface,
- the extruded tube is axially slit from its external surface to its internal surface,
- the slit tube is spread to the shape of a plate,
- an adhesive layer is applied to the exposed internal surface of the tube spread to the shape of a plate,
- an additional layer is applied to the adhesive layer and bonded thereto,
- the spread tube is returned into its tube shape before being slit with closing the axial slit of the tube coated with the adhesive layer and the additional layer characterized in that the additional layer is made
 - of a material comprising fibers having a linear density of 0,5 to 25 dtex, a length of 0,2 to 5 mm and a melt temperature that is higher than that of the polymeric foam,
 - by setting the internal surface of the spread tube coated with the adhesive layer to a ground potential, and
 - by electrostatically charging the fibers such that their one ends stick to the adhesive layer with a uniform surface coverage of 2 to 20 percent, while their other ends stand up therefrom.

5. (Previously presented) The tube of claim 1 wherein said surface coverage is 4 to 10 percent.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein said surface coverage is 4 to 10 percent.